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training along lines other than the purely vocational and conduce to his assuming in time duties on a higher occupational level within the commercial field. At few points indeed is the presentation of facts anything but consistent and comprehensible. An exception is the listing of commercial geography with the natural sciences in one chapter and in a succeeding chapter classifying it as a social-business subject. The facts set forth, the author's interpretation of them, and his related discussion merit the serious attention of all those who are in any way responsible for commercial education in our high schools.

L. V. K.

A new text for business-administration courses.—In his book entitled *Business Law*,¹ published by the Macmillan Company, Mr. Bays has endeavored to simplify the study of law. By thoughtful selection of cases for illustrative material he has produced a genuine contribution to the evolution of that better text which teachers of business law feel is needed. The book has more than the usual number of cases to support the legal principles discussed, and contains a series of questions at the close of each chapter which help to knit the ideas together. Happily, more than the ordinary amount of space is given to the subject of contracts.

Some of the topics, it would seem, might wisely be omitted. For example, would it not be well to exclude wholly such subjects as corporations and real property and thus make room for more adequate treatment of the more fundamental subjects? Contracts, principal and agent, negotiable paper, and sales alone seem to present a sufficiently formidable program for a course in business law. It is difficult, naturally, to strike a balance between a passing glance at the whole field of law and the critical analysis of a part intended to pay the biggest dividends, but the task is worthy of the serious attempts of our best text-writers. Certainly a somewhat definite idea of contracts and negotiable paper is to be preferred to a more sweeping attempt resulting in fuzziness of thought.

Compared with other texts, Mr. Bays' *Business Law* represents a forward step. It is not detracting from the merit of his work to say that some day a book will be written, not for students in schools and readers of law, but for plain boys and girls. This future text will be in clear lucid English, and will be supplied with plenty of illustrations of the principles involved, not in terms of A, B, and C, the parties to the proceedings, nor in terms of the *ultra vires* acts of the X corporation, but in terms of the every-day acts and the every-day life of the pupils to whom the text is addressed.

WILLARD E. ATKINS

Dooley's "*Applied Science for Metal-Workers*."²—The suggestion of the title that the content is of value only to the metal-worker is misleading, for this book is in fact an elementary treatise in the field of technology in general. It deals

¹ ALFRED W. BAYS, *Business Law*. New York: Macmillan Co., 1919. Pp. ix+311. \$1.40.

² WILLIAM H. DOOLEY, *Applied Science for Metal-Workers*. New York: Ronald Press Co., 1919. Pp. x+479. \$2.00.

with fundamental principles of chemistry and physics in their relation to our daily life. One-eighth of the material handled, perhaps, applies specifically to metal-working trades; the remainder is of general informational value to the average layman as well as to the metal-worker.

The mathematics used is confined to the basic chemical and physical laws. The method of handling the mathematics of these laws, if followed in a larger number of high-school science texts, would aid materially in dispelling the popular delusion that science is a mystery hidden in the mazes of higher mathematics and complex theories. Scientific facts are brought out in their relation to modern processes rather than through their relationship to some assumed theory.

The book is well within the range of evening- and continuation-school attendants, particularly those engaged in the distributive and productive industries. It should prove of value as a text in vocational high schools and in those regular high schools that are able to differentiate their courses for the benefit of that portion of their school population which graduates into industry.

H. T. F.

Home economics material for day, part-time, and evening classes.—The October bulletin on *Use and Preparation of Food*,¹ issued by the Federal Board for Vocational Education, is very complete and on the whole adequate for use as a basis for instruction in day, part-time, and evening classes in home economics. The content of the bulletin is organized into twelve units, nine of which cover the preparation of food, the other three being a series of lessons on "Food for the Family," "Special Modification of the Diet," and "The Housekeeper and the Food Problem." Each unit contains from four to ten lessons.

The fact that the material is organized into units makes it very flexible and its adaptation to the needs of a special group a simple matter. The arrangement of the material in logical order, however, makes it necessary that it be placed in the hands of a skilful teacher in order that it may be made vital to the housewife or the high-school girl. The teacher "selected for her wide, practical experience in home-making" would probably find her class constantly decreasing in numbers, due to lack of interest, if she attempted to present the list of facts as outlined.

The lessons on marketing and simplification of meals are particularly good. A more comprehensive treatment of the problems of distribution would add concreteness to this phase of the subject. The percentage method for groups of food used monthly is rather more feasible than the plan suggested for the keeping of food accounts. There are no standards given in the lesson on budgets. Those published by the department of labor could easily have been inserted and would have given the housewife some basis for regulation of her spending.

FLORENCE B. KING

An informative book on agricultural methods and results.—*The Principles of Agriculture*² by John H. Gehrs is a book for high schools and its purpose is "to

¹ *Use and Preparation of Food. Bulletin No. 35, Home Economics Series No. 3, October, 1919. Washington: Federal Board for Vocational Education. Pp. 268.*

² JOHN H. GEHRS, *The Principles of Agriculture*. New York: Macmillan Co., 1919. Pp. x+594. \$2.25.